



Board Highlights: August 8-9, 2017

Policy Day

The Policy Day will be held on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017** at the **Holiday Inn Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre**, 601 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph. Elected delegates, presidents, and secretaries are encouraged to attend the event and provide their feedback on policy positions for the pork industry in the province. The agenda and white papers for discussion will be circulated shortly. This year's Policy Day will focus on three key areas of importance to the future of the Ontario pork industry: 1) Swine Research Infrastructure in Ontario; 2) Navigating the National Pork Industry Landscape; and 3) Canadian Pork Excellence Platform Overview and Update.

Changes to Provincial Labour Laws

Ontario Pork has commissioned an analysis by Ridgeway College (University of Guelph) to get a better understanding of the effect of the minimum wage increase on the provincial pork industry. Ontario Pork has raised its concerns about the proposed minimum wage increase through multiple avenues, and partnering with other agricultural organizations to advocate for government transitional support to allow producers to adjust to the new costs and make labour-saving investments where possible.

Updates from Advisory Groups

Doug Ahrens, Chair of the Ontario Pork's Risk Management Advisory Group, presented a draft event-based hog production insurance proposal that was developed by the group. Ontario Pork submitted the proposal to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Agricorp, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to gather preliminary technical feedback. The objective of the product is to provide an indemnity in the event of a shortfall in the production of viable weaned pigs, resulting from swine disease.

Oliver Haan, Chair of the Program Development Advisory Group reported on the meeting held on July 13, 2017. The group members provided input into a proposal to restructure and redesign the existing Ontario Pork log-in site and discussed current public educational outreach programs supported by Ontario Pork to promote Ontario's swine industry with youth and adult audiences across the province.

Arno Schober, Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Group shared the group's recommendations on the best management practices to keep manure off the ground in the winter.

Programs and Financial Resources to Deal with Bad Weather

Jennifer Stevenson and Jade de Vos, Policy Advisors, Farm Finance Branch, OMAFRA provided an overview of federal and provincial programs and resources available for farmers to counteract significant risks such as extreme weather events, disease, pests and market volatility that are beyond the ability of producers to control.

Ontario Pork Industry Advocacy Ad-Hoc Committee

The Board of Directors decided to strike an Ontario Pork Industry Advocacy Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a proactive strategy for educating and informing society on modern production practices, and the role modern animal agriculture plays in providing a safe, affordable, high-quality pork products.